

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A network of systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database, a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein ~~at least two~~ a plurality of said servers are equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a uniform operative language established to connect with each other, and wherein when a user places a search inquiry at a first server local to the user, the inquiry is simultaneously forwarded to ~~one or more~~ a plurality of other servers having the same protocols established with the first server so that any search inquiry is simultaneously performed not only at the first server but also at said ~~one or more~~ plurality of other servers,

wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human languages, thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages.

2. (Currently amended) A network of system of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database, a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein there is one designated server among the plurality of servers that functions as a master server that is equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a uniform operative language established to connect with the other servers, as slave servers, the master server being capable of transmitting any search inquiry simultaneously to one or more designated ~~the~~ slave servers,

wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human languages, and thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages.

3. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 2, wherein said master server is capable of passing on any updates that a user placed at one of the slave servers to designated servers.

Claims 4-7 (canceled).

8. (Currently amended) A network of systems according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the uniform operative language of said ~~predetermined protocols of said servers are operated in~~ is Unicode that has correspondence with other Unicode of different languages.

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 2, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search result into the language corresponding to the language of the search inquiry, and thus transmitting the result back to the server placing the search inquiry.

11. (Previously presented) A network of system according to claim 2, wherein said master server has automatic synchronization function to transmit updates to all designated servers whenever an update occurs.

12. (Currently amended) A method of managing and controlling a network of systems of personal and business web cards, each of said systems including at least a web card server having at least a search engine and a database, said method comprising:
connecting a plurality of web card servers through the Internet;

establishing ~~at least a protocol~~ protocols working in a uniform operative language between ~~at least two~~ a plurality of said servers to enable communication between them including transmission of search inquiries therebetween;

installing said protocols, respectively, in ~~at least two~~ the plurality of said servers that communicate with each other;

identifying said ~~protocol~~ protocols between the servers to establish connection and communication therebetween; and

transmitting ~~any of said search inquiries and web card information between at least two~~ a search inquiry from a first server to a plurality of said other connected servers so that ~~any of said search inquiries~~ the search inquiry is simultaneously performed not only at the first server where the inquiry is placed, but also at ~~least one~~ the plurality of the other servers,

wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human languages and thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages.

13. (Currently amended) A method of claim 12, further comprising designating at least one of said web card servers as master server, and installing said protocols in said master server such that the master server is capable of communicating with all of said servers and transmitting the search inquiry ~~any of said search inquiries and web card information among~~ to the servers, including any update of said web card information.

14. (Currently amended) A method of claim 12, further comprising designating one master server for each of a plurality of regions ~~a particular region~~, and having all of designated master servers installed with pertinent protocols that enable communication between said master servers and transmission of web card information and search inquiries among said master servers.

15. (Original) A method of claim 14, wherein each of said master servers are capable of flashing an update that occurs within a corresponding system of personal information

web card, and transmitting such an update to other master servers having designated users, that in turn transmits the update to the designated user so as to synchronize all personal information data files of all designated users.

16. (Original) A method of claim 12, wherein said protocol is operative in a uniform Unicode corresponding to Unicode of different languages.

17. (Currently amended) A network of systems of claim 1, wherein the user can designate, in the inquiry, a particular set of said servers that have protocols established with the first ~~servers~~ server.

18. (Currently amended) A network of systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database, a search engine, and at least one search interface, wherein said servers are divided into groups such that each group comprises one designated master server and one or more slave servers, and within each group the master server is equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a uniform operative language established to connect with the slave servers within the same group, and is capable of transmitting a search inquiry to ~~one or more designated~~ the slave servers, and wherein the master servers are equipped with at least one interface having protocols working in a uniform operative language established to communicate with at least one of the other master servers such that a search inquiry can be transmitted among the master servers,

wherein when a user places a search inquiry at a first server local to the user, the inquiry is simultaneously forwarded to a plurality of other servers, and wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a first human language into one or more other operative human languages and thus enabling the transmission of search inquiries between servers that operate in different languages.

19. (Previously presented) A network of systems of claim 18, wherein each of the master servers is capable of transmitting an update to the slave servers within the same group and other master servers.

20. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 18, wherein said servers communicate with each other through a reciprocal uniform search interface with predetermined protocols between said servers.

Claim 21 (canceled).

22. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 20, wherein each of said predetermined protocols is operative at least between two of said servers in consideration of the operative languages of said two servers.

23. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 20, wherein said predetermined protocols of said servers are operated in Unicode that has correspondence with other Unicode of different languages.

Claim 24 (canceled).

25. (Previously presented) A network of systems according to claim 20, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search result into the corresponding to the language of the search inquiry, and thus transmitting result back to the server placing the search inquiry.

26. (Currently amended) A method of managing contact information contained in a network of ~~at least two~~ servers, each server comprising a search engine, an interface, and a database, said method comprising:

establishing one or more protocols in a uniform operative language, wherein the interface of ~~at least~~ a first server of the network can communicate in the uniform

operative language with a ~~second server~~ plurality of other servers using the protocols;

simultaneously transmitting a search inquiry comprising contact information ~~in a first human language~~ from the first server to ~~the second server~~ the plurality of other servers using the protocols;

transforming the contact information from ~~the~~ a first human language into a second human language;

performing a search with the transformed contact information; and
returning a search result to the first server.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the contact information is selected from the group consisting of a person's name, a telephone number, a facsimile number, a mailing address, a website, and an email address.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the contact information in the first human language is encoded in Unicode.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the first human language is Chinese and the step of transforming the contact information from the first human language into the second human language comprises transforming one or more Chinese characters into alphabetic letters.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of identifying a protocol allowing communication between the first server and the ~~second server~~ plurality of other servers.

Claims 31 and 32 (canceled).

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the network of servers is divided into one or more groups of servers, each group comprising one designated master server and one or more slave servers, wherein the interface of the master server of a

group communicates with all of the slave servers of the group in a uniform operative language.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the master server is a master server for a geographic region.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the master server is capable of transmitting updated contact information to the slave servers so as to synchronize contact information present in data files of the slave servers.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the network of servers comprises a plurality of master servers, and wherein the interface of a first master server communicates with the remaining master servers in a uniform operative language.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first master server is capable of transmitting updated contact information to the remaining master servers so as to synchronize contact information present in data files of the remaining master servers.